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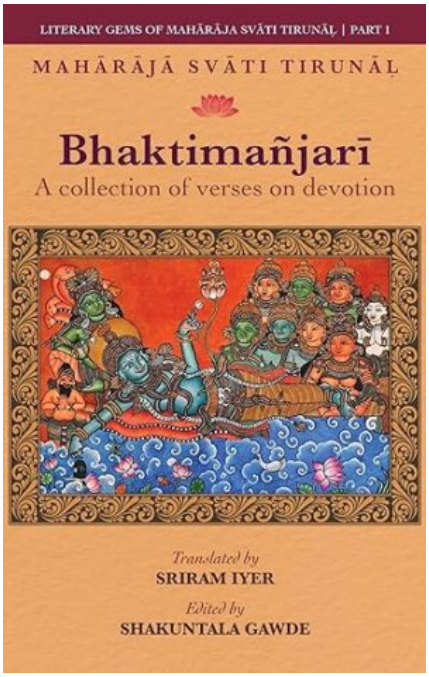
Bhaktimanjari: A Collection of Verses on Devotion | Literary Gems of Maharaja Svati Tirunal Part 1 | Text with English translation



Author: Maharaja Svati Tirunal | Translated by Sriram Iyer | Edited by Shakuntala Gawde

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About the Book

Bhakti-Mañjar? is a unique poem composed by Mah?r?j? Sv?ti Tirun?? (1813- 1846) with bhakti as its central theme. With the ?r?mad-Bh?gavata Pur??a as its basis, Bhakti-Mañjar? expounds the philosophy of bhakti through its one thousand poetic verses divided over ten ?atakas set to various metres. The supremacy of bhakti over all spiritual paths, the various classes of devotees, the selfless and spontaneous compassion of the Lord, the futility of human birth devoid of bhakti, etc. are some of the topics discussed in the work. A major portion of the work is dedicated to an elaborate delineation of the nine forms of devotion viz. ?rava?a, k?rtana, smara?a, p?da-sevana, arcana, vandana, d?sya, sakhya and ?tma-nivedana. Episodes from the ?r?mad-Bh?gavata Pur??a such as the life of Prahl?da, the redemption of Gajendra, the redemption of Aj?mila, the self-surrender of Bali, etc, are briefly represented in the course of describing the various forms of devotion. The creation of the universe, its geographical divisions, duties of the four classes and stages of life, the procedure of reciting the ?r?mad-Bh?gavata Pur??a, the rules of japa, consecration of sacred images, the greatness of Ga?g? and Tulas? are some of the other highlights of this great work. The brief representation of the pristine philosophy of bhakti through verses embellished with figures of sound and sense makes the work a cherished treasure of scholars and devotees, alike.

About the Author

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Mah?r?j? Sv?ti Tirun?? ?r? R?ma Varm? III (1813-1846) the illustrious ruler of Travancore was a poet, a musician and a great patron of arts & literature. His literary compositions include *Sy?nand?rapura-var?ana-prabandha, Padman?bha-?ataka* and *Bhakti-mañjar?,* his magnum-opus. His musical works include 300-odd songs of different genres in various languages and two operatic poems in Sanskrit viz. *Kucelop?khy?na* and *Aj?milop?khy?na.*

About Editor:

Shakuntala Gawde, Assistant Professor and former head of the Sanskrit Department at the University of Mumbai, is a distinguished scholar who has made significant contributions to the field of Sanskrit studies and research. She has published six books and fifty articles in esteemed journals, edited volumes, and encyclopaedias. In 2021, she was honoured with the Academisthan Best Teacher Award.

About the translator:

'Maruti?i?ya' Dr. Sriram Narainswamy Iyer, Deputy Director, Sanskrit Studies & Research, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai is an artist, author and Sanskritist. Apart from his academic pursuits, he has also composed and directed Sanskrit dance-ballets such as *"Um?-Pari?aya", '?r? Bh?gavata-Caritam", "?r? ?a?kara-Digvijayam"* and *"?r? R?ma R?jyam"*

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STAY CONNECTED
Second Floor, Prakashdeep 22, Delhi Medical Association Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi – 110 002
Phone No : +91-11-4357-2647
Email ID : info@devbooks.co.in
Website : devbooks.co.in